

THE WELL-READ LIBRARIAN: LIBRARIES AS COMMUNITY CENTERS

by Marissa Priddis



LIBRARY SPACES AND PLACES

Block, Marylaine. "How to Become a Great Public Space." *American Libraries*. 34, no. 4 (2003): 72-74.

Details an interview with Fred Kent, founder of the Project for Public Spaces (PPS) and Phil Myrick, PPS's assistant vice president, about transforming libraries into desirable public spaces. More and more, patrons are placing value in public spaces to not only access information, but mingle, meander, shop, sip coffee and complete errands in one stop shopping. They also discuss "great library buildings and what they are doing right; the first thing library directors should do when planning an expansion or new building; and whether a brand-new central library building can help restore a dying downtown."

Flynn, Larry. "Libraries that Wow and Welcome." *Building Design and Construction*. 45, no. 8 (2004): 52-61.

Despite the lower number of libraries constructed in the last year, Flynn points out that more and more construction projects are focusing on "partnered facilities" – libraries connected to schools, senior centers, daycares and neighborhood service centers. In addition, architectural accents and "libraries that don't look like libraries" have become the newest trend in these redesigned "community centers".

Fulton, William. "Let's Meet at the Library." *Planning*. 65, No. 5 (1999): 4-10.

Discusses revitalization of downtown Charleston thanks to a new main library branch, as well as other "success stories." Elaborates on libraries as community centers, ports of entry for new immigrants, the unique locations of some public libraries (strip malls or the bottom of apartment buildings, for example), and even the creation of virtual libraries for the future.

Martin, Elisabeth and Kenney, Brian. "Great Libraries in the Making." *Library Journal*. 129, no. 20 (2004): 70-73.

Discusses how retail companies are driving library design – from bookstores to coffeehouses to Kinko's. Focuses on several new building projects around the country that include community spaces, programming areas for concerts and lectures and public gathering areas in a quest to meet this growing demand – while still maintaining the mission and feel of a library.

INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Burke, Linda. "The Saving Grace of Library Space." *American Libraries*. 35, No. 4 (2004): 74-77.

Highlights the proactive marketing of the new library at Davidson County Community College in Lexington, North Carolina. This academic library made the "information only" atmosphere more inviting with board games, Friday coffee hours, programming geared toward students and faculty, and even a book cart filled with new arrivals that visits faculty offices every week. Circulation and gate counts have spiked since the library began adding these innovative services.

Dempsey, Beth. "Cashing In on Service." *Library Journal*. 129, no. 18 (2004): 38-42.

Discusses the innovative spirit of libraries in creating larger senses of community while raising valuable revenue for the library itself. Entrepreneurial examples cited include partnerships with Starbucks, supply shops, retail spaces for rent, and a passport office in the library. The article also discusses the evaluation of generating revenue while protecting the overall library mission.

Keller, Bess. "Gathering Place." *Education Week*. 24, no. 7 (2004): 4.

This article features a book-themed café at a Lexington, Kentucky high school library installed that sells coffee, tea and hot chocolate. A part of the proceeds go towards the clubs and teams that run the café, and the library has seen a spike in student traffic to the media center since the inception of The Bookmark café.

CREATING COMMUNITIES FOR UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

ALC: Libraries for the Future Programs
<http://www.lff.org/programs/>

This website, Libraries for the Future (the program division of the Americans for Libraries Council), details the programs available at the national, state and local levels, many forged in partnership with libraries, library systems, foundations and community-based organizations. The “signature programs include Family Place, a national initiative that transforms libraries into centers for healthy child development and family literacy, and Equal Access Libraries, model programs that help libraries animate new technologies and enhance their capacities as centers for information and education.”

Getting Ready to Market the Library to Culturally Diverse Communities.

<http://webjunction.org/do/DisplayContent?id=1526>

This article (originally published in Alki: *The Washington Library Association Journal*), details a step-by-step guide to providing and marketing library services and programs to immigrant and non-native English speaking groups. The article covers needs assessment, setting priorities, marketing plans and a checklist for reviewing the library.

Meyers, Elaine. “The Road to Coolness: Youth Rock the Public Library.” *American Libraries*. 32, no.2 (2001): 46-49.

Focuses on the demands on libraries to keep young adults interested, skilled and engaged in using their public libraries. Discusses young adults as library workers, as well as their involvement in developing cultural programs or fundraising for local public libraries, or in making the library “cool” again.

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